

Message Text

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USADB

PASS TREASURYDEP FOR SHERK

PASS BUREAU OF CENSUS, IPC

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TAGS: EAID, EFIN, ADB
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ADB COOPERATION WITH U.S. BUREAU
- OF CENSUS

1. DURING A VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES LAST WEEK, BUREAU OF CENSUS OFFICERS KARL KINDEL AND ROBERT BARTRAM WERE APPROACHED BY USADB STAFFER LEFES AND ASKED TO DISCUSS WITH ADB PERSONNEL THE QUESTION OF THE BANK'S IMPROVING ITS CAPABILITIES IN THE FIELD OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC MEASUREMENTS. THIS APPROACH WAS RELATED TO AND FOLLOWED FROM CONCERNS THAT I HAVE EXPRESSED FROM TIME TO TIME IN BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS. THE USADB HAS NOTED WEAKNESSES IN VARIOUS ADB PROJECT APPRAISALS WHICH WE BELIEVED DID NOT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT "HARD" INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY BENEFICIARIES, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE BASE DATA TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS ACTIVITIES ON THE INTENDED BENEFICIARIES. USADB STAFF HAD DISCUSSED THESE ISSUES WITH PROJECT MANAGERS AS VARIOUS PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORTS WERE CIRCULATED FOR REVIEW. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS A NUMBER OF MY
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BOARD COLLEAGUES HAVE JOINED ME IN WHAT I CONSIDER A DIFFICULT BUT NECESSARY EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN STAFF ATTITUDES REGARDING THE ATTEMPTED QUANTIFICATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES. IT APPEARS THAT THESE EFFORTS ARE BEGINNING TO PAY OFF.

2. THE BANK STAFF ADMITTED THAT THEY WERE STRUGGLING

WITH CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS AND SURVEY INSTRUMENTS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSES. THEY HAD EXPRESSED A DEFINITE INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT TECHNIQUES IN THIS AREA AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT USAID/MANILA'S DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSES ACTIVITIES IN RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND PROVINCIAL WATER SUPPLY, TWO AREAS IN WHICH THE BANK ALSO HAS PROJECT LOANS IN THE REGION. WHEN INFORMED THAT BUREAU OF CENSUS EXPERTS WERE IN MANILA, BANK STAFF HASTILY ORGANIZED A SERIES OF TWO MEETINGS IN WHICH BILL MCDONALD, USADB CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AND KINDEL AND BARTRAM OF CENSUS EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH 14 SENIOR MEMBERS OF BANK STAFF INCLUDING THE DIRECTORS OF PROJECTS I AND PROJECTS II DIVISIONS, THE BANK'S CHIEF STATISTICIAN AND TWO SENIOR ECONOMISTS FROM THE BANK'S POST-EVALUATION UNIT. KINDEL AND BARTRAM EFFECTIVELY BRIEFED BANK STAFF ON THE SCOPE OF THE USAID'S SURVEY AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES PROVIDING DETAILS ON SURVEY DESIGN, DATA GATHERING METHODOLOGY, DATA PROCESSING AND STUDY RESULTS. KINDEL WAS EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF THE USAID'S RURAL ELECTRIFICATION STUDY ACTIVITY AS WELL AS THE GENERAL AREA OF RANDOM SAMPLING TECHNIQUE, SURVEY DESIGNS AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY. HIS LUCID PRESENTATION AND CANDID RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ALLAYED MANY BANK STAFF CONCERNS.

3. AT THE CLOSE OF THE SECOND MEETING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROJECTS II DIVISION, MR. K. LUTHRA, ASKED IF IT MIGHT
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BE POSSIBLE FOR THE BANK TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A BUREAU OF CENSUS STAFFER TO WORK WITH THE BANK IN DEVELOPING A SURVEY INSTRUMENT AND OTHER METHODOLOGY FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS. THE BANK PLANS TO BEGIN ITS EFFORTS IN THIS AREA WITH THE PHILIPPINE IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA), PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO ITS IRRIGATION ACTIVITIES IN MINDANAO. THE CENSUS TEAM APPEARED READY TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST AND WE OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE BANK'S CONSULTING SERVICES OFFICE WITH APPROPRIATE INFORMATION TO ENABLE IT TO CONTACT THE BUREAU OF CENSUS.

4. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE OUTSTANDING COOPERATION THAT USAID/MANILA GAVE US IN THIS PIONEERING MATTER AND THE EXCELLENT SUPPORT BY BUREAU OF CENSUS OFFICERS BARTRAM AND KINDEL WHO HAD TO MAKE CERTAIN LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN THEIR SCHEDULES TO ACCOMMODATE US. FOLLOWING THE MEETING BANK OFFICERS COMMENTED THAT THEY WERE SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPERTS COULD MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS WITH THE BANK ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. I BELIEVE THE BANK WILL NOW CARRY THE BALL ON THIS MATTER BUT I WILL WATCH IT WITH INTEREST AND WILL KEEP WASHINGTON INFORMED AS NEW DEVELOPMENTS

OCCUR AND AS WASHINGTON SUPPORT MAY BE REQUIRED. EDMOND

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